



**For Immediate Release:  
Tuesday, August 19, 2008**

**Contact: Sarah Bolado  
(302) 672-5104  
(302) 632-6271 cell**

## **Council of State Governments honors Delaware's comprehensive wellness program**

*DelaWELL receives 2008 CSG Innovations Award*

*Dover* – The Council of State Governments announced Sunday, August 10, that Delaware's comprehensive wellness program for state employees, DelaWELL was chosen to receive a 2008 Innovations Award. Delaware was one of 11 finalists for the regional award, which is presented annually to deserving programs in our area. The eight winners of the Innovations Awards will be recognized during CSG's annual conference in Omaha, Neb., in December. CSG selects two winners from each of its four regions.

"We are extremely honored to be the recipients of this prestigious award," said Office of Management and Budget Director Jennifer "J.J." Davis. "Our employees helped in the design of our program and are truly responsible for its success. Our latest data indicates that we will not only save millions, but we have made significant progress in improving the overall health of our greatest asset — our employees."

"It truly is an honor to be recognized for our one-of-a-kind approach to addressing rising health care costs," said Governor Ruth Ann Minner. "DelaWELL is paving the way for states all over the country who are interested in implementing wellness programs for their employees both in the public and private sectors."

DelaWELL is a comprehensive wellness initiative that is offered to approximately 68,000 people throughout the State of Delaware. The multi-faceted program takes a proactive approach to health care by offering employees tools such as biometric screenings, health risk assessments, online health resources and Weight Watchers® offerings. DelaWELL has been a model for other states who are interested in setting up similar programs. The program concept is based on a paradigm shift in government. Paying for healthcare before you really need it may seem like an unusual business investment, however the DelaWELL program is proof that it makes perfect sense.

CSG established the Innovations Awards Program in 1986 to bring greater visibility to exemplary state programs and practices, and to facilitate the transfer of those successful experiences to other states. The program is the only comprehensive national awards program that focuses exclusively on state programs and policies.

Founded in 1933, the Council of State Governments is a nonpartisan organization serving the executive, judicial and legislative branches of state government by forecasting policy trends for the community of states, commonwealths and territories on a national and regional basis. It alerts state elected and appointed officials to emerging social, economic and political trends; offers innovative state policy responses to rapidly changing conditions; and advocates multi-state problem-solving to maximize resources and competitiveness. CSG provides state officials with the tools and strategies they need to implement effective policy and programs. It serves as a catalyst for state leadership, building new partnerships within government and among governing entities, promoting multi-state and regional cooperative ventures, and establishing vital links with the private sector and other civic leaders.